

Remarks

This application contains claims 1-373, the status of which is as follows:

- (a) Claims 1-20, 26-29, 46-163, 169-172, and 189-360 were previously canceled, and claims 21-25, 30-45, 164, 165, 167, 173-175, 182, 361, 363, and 364 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in a future application.
- (b) Claims 166, 168, 176-181, 183-188, and 362 have been currently amended.
- (c) Claims 365-373 are new.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for finding that dependent claims 181 and 186-188 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have thus:

- rewritten claim 181 in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent base claim 164 and intervening claim 175;
- rewritten claim 186 in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent base claim 164 and intervening claims 175 and 185;
- rewritten claim 187 in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent base claim 164 and intervening claims 175 and 185; and
- rewritten claim 188 in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent base claim 164 and intervening claims 175 and 185.

Claims 164 and 175 have accordingly been canceled.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that claims 181 and 186-188 are in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 164 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. While not necessarily agreeing with this rejection, applicants have canceled claim 164 as discussed above, in order to expedite the issuance of a patent on the allowable subject matter. Applicants note that allowable dependent claims 181 and 186-188 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, because they do not suffer from the alleged lack of clarity in claim 164.

Claims 165, 167, 173, 174, 176-179, and 181-188 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for insufficient antecedent basis. Appropriate correction has been made to claims 176-179, 181, and 183-188. Claims 165, 167, 173, 174, and 182 have been canceled.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that claims 165, 167, 176-179, 181, and 183-188 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 164, 165, and 167 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morillo et al. ("Chronic Rapid Atrial Pacing"). Claims 166, 168, and 361 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morillo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,695 to Webster, Jr. et al. Claims 173 and 174 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morillo et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0045909 to Gross et al. Claims 175, 178, 179, 180, 182, 185, and 364 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morillo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,236 to Osorio et al. Claims 183 and 184 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morillo et al. in view of Osorio et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,537 to Stoop et al.

While not necessarily agreeing with these rejections, in order to expedite issuance of a patent the allowable subject matter, applicants have canceled claims 164, 361, 173-175, and 182, and amended claims 166, 168, 176-180, 183-185, and 362 to depend from respective allowable claims.

New claims

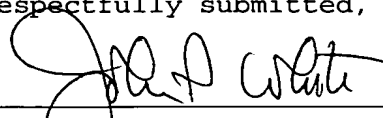
New claims 365-367, 368-370, and 371-373 are identical to claims 166, 168, and 362, respectively, as previously presented, except for their dependencies. These claims are in condition for allowance because they depend from allowable independent claims, as discussed above.

Applicants believe the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are now in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed fee of \$110.00 for filing additional claims, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

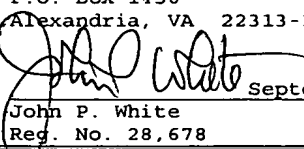
Respectfully submitted,



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John P. White Date
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